



U.S. Department of Defense  
Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)

## News Release

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 340-11  
April 24, 2011

**Statement by Pentagon Press Secretary Geoff Morrell and Special Envoy for Closure of the Guantanamo Detention Facility Ambassador Daniel Fried**

"It is unfortunate that several news organizations have made the decision to publish numerous documents obtained illegally by Wikileaks concerning the Guantanamo (GTMO) detention facility. These documents contain classified information about current and former GTMO detainees, and we strongly condemn the leaking of this sensitive information.

"The Wikileaks releases include Detainee Assessment Briefs (DABs) written by the Department of Defense between 2002 and early 2009. These DABs were written based on a range of information available then.

"The Guantanamo Review Task Force, established in January 2009, considered the DABs during its review of detainee information. In some cases, the task force came to the same conclusions as the DABs. In other instances the review task force came to different conclusions, based on updated or other available information. The assessments of the Guantanamo Review Task Force have not been compromised to Wikileaks. Thus, any given DAB illegally obtained and released by Wikileaks may or may not represent the current view of a given detainee.

"Both the previous and the current administrations have made every effort to act with the utmost care and diligence in transferring detainees from Guantanamo. The previous administration transferred 537 detainees; to date, the current administration has transferred 67. Both administrations have made the protection of American citizens the top priority and we are concerned that the disclosure of these documents could be damaging to those efforts. That said, we will continue to work with allies and partners around the world to mitigate threats to the United States and other countries and to work toward the ultimate closure of the Guantanamo detention facility, consistent with good security practices and our values as a nation."

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The White House  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

July 27, 2010

## Remarks by the President After Bipartisan Leadership Meeting

Rose Garden

12:30 P.M. EDT

**THE PRESIDENT:** Good afternoon, everybody. I just concluded a productive discussion with the leaders of both parties in Congress.

This was one of a series of regular meetings that I called for in the State of the Union because I think it's important for us to come together and speak frankly about the challenges we face and to work through areas where we don't agree; hopefully find some areas where we do.

Our conversation today focused on an issue that's being discussed every day at kitchen tables across this country - and that's how do we create jobs that people need to support their families.

I believe that starts with doing everything we can to support small businesses. These are the stores, the restaurants, the start-ups and other companies that create two out of every three new jobs in this country - and that grow into the big businesses that transform industries, here in America and around the world.

But we know that many of these businesses still can't get the loans and the capital they need to keep their doors open and hire new workers.

That's why we've proposed steps to get them that help -- eliminating capital gains taxes on investments, making it easier for small lenders to support small businesses, expanding successful SBA programs to help these businesses access the capital that they need.

This is how we create jobs -- by investing in the innovators and entrepreneurs that have always driven our prosperity.

These are the kind of common-sense steps that folks from both parties have supported in the past -- steps to cut taxes and spur private sector growth and investment. And I hope that in the coming days, we'll once again find common ground and get this legislation passed. We shouldn't let America's small businesses be held hostage to partisan politics -- and certainly not at this critical time.

We also talked about the need to move forward on energy reform. The Senate is now poised to act before the August recess, advancing legislation to respond to the BP oil spill and create new clean energy jobs.

That legislation is an important step in the right direction. But I want to emphasize it's only the first step. And I intend to keep pushing for broader reform, including climate legislation, because if we've learned anything from the tragedy in the Gulf, it's that our current energy policy is unsustainable.

And we can't afford to stand by as our dependence on foreign oil deepens, as we keep on pumping out the deadly pollutants that threaten our air and our water and the lives and livelihoods of our people. And we can't stand by as we let China race ahead to create the clean energy jobs and industries of the future. We should be developing those renewable energy sources, and creating those high-wage, high-skill jobs right here in the United States of America.

That's what comprehensive energy and climate reform would do. And that's why I intend to keep pushing this issue forward.

I also urged the House leaders to pass the necessary funding to support our efforts in Afghanistan and Pakistan. I know much has been written about this in recent days as a result of the substantial leak of documents from Afghanistan covering a period from 2004 to 2009.

### WATCH THE VIDEO



July 27, 2010 2:22 PM

President Obama on Bipartisan Leadership Meeting

### EXTENDING MIDDLE-CLASS TAX CUTS IT'S THE RIGHT THING TO DO

[VIEW THE INFOGRAPHIC](#)

### BLOG POSTS ON THIS ISSUE

September 12, 2012 11:54 AM EDT

President Obama Discusses the Attack in Benghazi, Libya



President Obama condemns the attacks on an American diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya and praises the service of those who lost their lives.

September 12, 2012 12:34 PM EDT

Annual Census Data on Income, Poverty, and Health Insurance for 2011

The Annual Census data report shows that we have made progress digging our way out of the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, but families are still struggling. Congress must act on the policies President Obama has put forward to strengthen the middle class and those trying to get into it.

September 11, 2012 12:18 PM EDT

The Health Care Law is Saving Americans Money

According to a new report, consumers saved more \$2 billion in the past year, thanks to new rules that protect people from insurance industry abuses.

While I'm concerned about the disclosure of sensitive information from the battlefield that could potentially jeopardize individuals or operations, the fact is these documents don't reveal any issues that haven't already informed our public debate on Afghanistan; indeed, they point to the same challenges that led me to conduct an extensive review of our policy last fall.

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So let me underscore what I've said many times: For seven years, we failed to implement a strategy adequate to the challenge in this region, the region from which the 9/11 attacks were waged and other attacks against the United States and our friends and allies have been planned.

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That's why we've substantially increased our commitment there, insisted upon greater accountability from our partners in Afghanistan and Pakistan, developed a new strategy that can work, and put in place a team, including one of our finest generals, to execute that plan. Now we have to see that strategy through.

And as I told the leaders, I hope the House will act today to join the Senate, which voted unanimously in favor of this funding, to ensure that our troops have the resources they need and that we're able to do what's necessary for our national security.

Finally, during our meeting today, I urged Senator McConnell and others in the Senate to work with us to fill the vacancies that continue to plague our judiciary. Right now, we've got nominees who've been waiting up to eight months to be confirmed as judges. Most of these folks were voted out of committee unanimously, or nearly unanimously, by both Democrats and Republicans. Both Democrats and Republicans agreed that they were qualified to serve. Nevertheless, some in the minority have used parliamentary procedures time and again to deny them a vote in the full Senate.

If we want our judicial system to work -- if we want to deliver justice in our courts -- then we need judges on our benches. And I hope that in the coming months, we'll be able to work together to ensure a timelier process in the Senate.

Now, we don't have many days left before Congress is out for the year. And everyone understands that we're less than 100 days from an election. It's during this time that the noise and the chatter about who's up in the polls and which party is ahead threatens to drown out just about everything else.

But the folks we serve -- who sent us here to serve, they sent us here for a reason. They sent us here to listen to their voices. They sent us here to represent their interests -- not our own. They sent us here to lead. And I hope that in the coming months, we'll do everything in our power to live up to that responsibility. Thanks very much.

END

12:37 P.M. EDT

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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1000

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1570  
AUG 16 2010

The Honorable Carl Levin  
Chairman  
Committee on Armed Services  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your July 28, 2010, letter regarding the unauthorized disclosure and publication of classified military documents by the WikiLeaks organization. I share your concerns about the potential compromise of classified information and its effect on the safety of our troops, allies, and Afghan partners.

After consulting with the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, I have directed a thorough investigation to determine the scope of any unauthorized release of classified information and identify the person or persons responsible. I have also established an interagency Information Review Task Force, led by the Defense Intelligence Agency, to assess the content of any compromised information and the impacts of such a compromise. Our initial review indicates most of the information contained in these documents relates to tactical military operations. The initial assessment in no way discounts the risk to national security; however, the review to date has not revealed any sensitive intelligence sources and methods compromised by this disclosure.

The documents do contain the names of cooperative Afghan nationals and the Department takes very seriously the Taliban threats recently discussed in the press. We assess this risk as likely to cause significant harm or damage to the national security interests of the United States and are examining mitigation options. We are working closely with our allies to determine what risks our mission partners may face as a result of the disclosure. There is a possibility that additional military documents may be published by WikiLeaks and the Department is developing courses of action to address this possibility.

The scope of the assessment and nature of the investigative process require a great deal of time and effort. I am committed to investigating this matter and determining

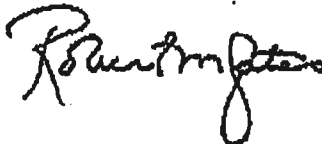
31 AUG 18 2010



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appropriate action to reduce the risk of any such compromises in the future. We will keep you informed as additional information becomes available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Gates". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Robert" being more prominent and the last name "Gates" following in a similar style.

cc:  
The Honorable John McCain  
Ranking Member